

The Town Assembly of Arden took place on Monday September 23 1991 at 7:30 PM in the Gild Hall Arden.

Those present where:

Elizabeth Varley	Tim Colgan	Rae Gerstine
Irene O'Connor	Cookie Ohlson nv	Eugene Shaw
June Kleban	Bernie Kleban	William Press
Betty Knott	Gail Rinehart	Connee McKinney
Russ McKinney	Pat Liberman	Cy Liberman
Mary Irons	Barbara Fenske	Don Holcomb
Shaul Gladstone	Lee Starr	Sally Hamburger
Jean K. Brachman	Bernie Brachman	Peter Renzetti
Skip Salkeld	Marianne Cinaglia	Aaron Hamburger
Steven Threefoot	Ethel Monfort	Maryellen Jobson
Jannie Stearns	Harold Monfort	Joane Colgan
Chris Cuttance nv	Lou Bean	Thomas Colgan
Lew Aumack	Sharon Kleban	Alan Kleban
Larry Walker	Yvonne King	Carl Falco
John Demsey	Ruth Panella	Carlisle Landel nv
Bonnie Burslem	Rich Pell	Chris Demsey
Frank Akutowicz	Alan Burslem	Bill Theis

Guest Speaker: Tim Colgan, Safety Committee introduced Dave Eastburn, State Trooper who gave many suggestions for Community Town Watch. Safety Committee will be organizing Town Watch again for Arden.

Agenda Clarification:

Sally Hamburger suggested it might be time for a block party for all newcomers to Arden.

Joan Colgan - representative Wayne Smith has breakfast hour at the Silverside Daries , now a restuarant, every Tuesday at 7 AM - he is very eager to help with any problems we may have.

Woody Vandever, recently passed away was remembered with a minute of silence at Town Assembly, and also other long time residents of the Ardens - Vera Berk and Elwyn Scott.

Approval of June Town Minutes - minutes approved.

Nominations for Board of Assessors were then taken from the floor.

Aaron Hamburger	Bernie Brachman	Peter Renzetti
Eugene Shaw	Tom Colgan	Steve Threefoot
Christine Demsey	Richard Pell	Jannie Stearns
James Schwaber	John Wheeler	Yvonne King
	Lee Starr	Cy Liberman

Trustees Report: Shaul Gladstone

1. The Village taxes will be paid on September 30, 1991. These consist of a total of \$147,062.44, and may be broken down as follows:

School Taxes	\$ 93,684.97
County Property Taxes:	
Directly to County	42,637.90
30 Rebates to Seniors	10,051.58
4 Rebates for double payments	687.99

26 Seniors are eligible for a maximum of \$342.82, while 4 others will receive checks ranging from \$214.26 to \$334.78.
2. An estimate for administrative expenses in the amount of \$19,000.00 has been presented to the Budget Committee for inclusion in the 1991-1992 Budget. \$7,590 of the above is for staff salaries, and represents a 5% increase over the current year. The remainder includes payroll taxes, office rent, auditing, legal fees, insurance and a \$330.00 miscellaneous item.
3. Interest income is estimated at \$12,000.00, assuming an interest rate of 7% on an average balance of about \$170,000.00.
4. Proceeds from Certificates of Deposit now coming due will be reinvested when taxes are paid to the county.

Respectfully submitted,
Trustees of Arden

Advisory Committee Report: Marianne Cinaglia

At the September Advisory Committee meeting the Committee spent 45 minutes discussing issues of concern to the Town Assembly meeting itself. We discussed meeting quorum, the length of the meetings and the correct method of electing new committee members to replace elected members who were not able to complete their terms.

Steven Threefoot, chair of the Legislative Reference Committee stated that a quorum was necessary to start the meeting and that it would be necessary to count for the quorum later in the meeting if the question was raised as to whether there was still a quorum in attendance. If it were established that there was no quorum, then no more official business that required a vote of the Assembly could be conducted. A quorum is not necessary to close the meeting.

Discussion ensued on speeding action of meeting and the advisability of an attempt to clarify reasons for people leaving before the completion of business. The effect of the smokers break, efforts by committee chairs to deliver concise reports, the predetermination of length of each committee report and discussion, and the advisability of changing the order of business to accomodate committees with prepared motions was discussed.

However, the change of order would not accommodate issues which arose from the floor during the meeting.

In an effort to speak to the issue of meeting length and the loss of momentum during the smoking break, the Advisory Committee makes the following motion:

The Advisory Committee moves that, in order to hold the momentum of the Town Assembly and thereby shorten the length of the meeting, the smokers break be eliminated and that smokers excuse themselves from the meeting if they feel it necessary.

This motion was defeated and the meeting break will continue.

In accordance with the Acts to Reincorporate, replacing committee members who are unable to complete their terms must be done by vote of the Town Assembly. Three committees need to replace members. In keeping with the Acts, The Advisory Committee places the following names in nomination to replace incapacitated committee members:

For the Budget Committee to replace John Page for a two year term:
Bess Southwell

For Safety Committee to replace John Huit : Tom Colgan

For Playground Committee to replace Ellen Dolmetch: Armando Brito.

The above were approved unanimously by a voice vote.

The Advisory Committee is still discussing an acceptable and effective way of better publicizing committee nominations before Town elections. This matter is in continuous discussion.

Nominations for town committees should be made at the January Town Assembly. If you are interested in serving on a committee, get in touch with the committee chair, Bill Press, Irene O'Connor or myself, Marianne Cinaglia and we will route your name into the system.

Report accepted.

Archives Committee Report: Sally Hamburger

Summer Activities: Conference of Intentional Communities: July 25-28, 1991, Elizabethtown College, PA. I attended, and it was a fascinating experience. So many kinds of people struggling to define a meaningful life style - from the German Pietist to the "hippie" communes. The Kibbutzim from Israel were particularly interested in the Arden way of life. There are at least 224 Intentional Communities in North America alone. I won't take your time at this Assembly talking about details, but if you are interested I would be glad to talk about it privately. I did realize that Arden has experience to offer in this area. There was much discussion about the difficulties of dealing with maturing communities - how to flex with the times without sacrificing the basic ideals. I realized that what we are doing with the Arden Archives is revitalizing the vision.

10 week internship of Tess Riesmeyer, a graduate student in the University of Delaware Museum Studies program. This was our most intensive program over the summer. We were very fortunate in having Tess start us off in the

right direction. Thanks to a grant from the Delaware Heritage Commission, Tess put together an extensive index of our holdings - copies of which are available for you to look at this evening. The index covers:

- * 105 files including the Arden Leaves from 1909-1946, school and theater records and Arden games and Arden games and songs.

- * A listing of the 70 items in our permanent collection including works by 15 Arden artists like Frank and Don Stephens, Marcus Aurelius Renzetti and Clara Finkelstein plus artifacts like the Esperato penant and silver tennis cup.

- * A location file - where to find each and every item.

- * The beginnings of a photograph index. The hundreds of photos are filed by category - people (individuals and groups), houses, location files have been indexed to date.

- * Loan file (29 as of the date). Loans are a fine way to augment the collection to include current artists and avoid storage problems.

In addition, Tess created important forms for us to use: Forms for Deed of Gift, object worksheet, print worksheet and receipt for loans.

We still have a lot to do, but Tess left us some specific tasks, like protecting the books and continuing the index. She drops by often to make sure we are using white gloves to handle valuable objects and using "Mr. Stickys" to keep vermin at bay.

Tess will be presenting her internship report, complete with slides, at Old College, University of Delaware on Sunday, Oct. 11 from 2-4 :30 PM. The Archives Committee will be there in full force. Please let us know if you would like to join us.

Other summer projects were:

- * The continuation of the oral history - Pat & Cy Liberman conducted 10 interviews on Fair Day,

- * Fire protection - the installation of smoke detestors and a fire extinguisher.

- * Work on the Shakespeare garden - photos of this are available tonight though they do not show the attack of the bees. We are waiting for cooler weather to plant bulbs and shrubs. Daffodil donations would be welcome.

- * Two special exhibits - one for ACRA day and one for Henry George and Single Tax mounted for Henry George Day.

70 Visitors have signed our guest book to date - we don't catch all of them, but we try.

FINANCES

As of this date we have \$1000 dollars in our account plus \$119 left from the Delaware Heritage Grant that is earmarked for the distribution of our catalogues to libraries and museums, we await the printing of the Arden Book to include with those mailings. We plan a fund raising party in the near future to introduce our Advisory Board. Bob Wynn, a member of that board, is working on a Crystal Trust grant.

FUTURE PLANS

Our next special exhibit will be on textiles and stitchery. We hope to include Arden weaving, quilts by Catherine Peterson and Sally Thurston, and needlepoint by Bernie Kleban with designs by Lanier Colgan. That will be followed by an exhibit of Clara Finkelstein paintings. Mrs. Finkelstein, wife of former Trustee I.B. Finkelstein, painted powerful scenes of Russian

Jewish life - one of her works is included in our permanent collection. We are thinking about an exhibit of Arden theater artifacts. If you have any costumes, props or scene designs that you would like to share, please let us know.

As a fund raising activity, we will be scheduling Arden walking tours at regular intervals. We will charge \$5 for the basic tour, \$20 for the deluxe tour which will include a wine and cheese reception and dinner at the Gild Hall. Please let us know if you would be willing to guide one of these tours.

We would like to invite all of you to stop in at the Red House, it is always open on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM and by appointment. However, for those of you who haven't made it yet I would like to take you on a brief guided tour of the site.

Proceed to the corner of Millers & Cherry Lane and enter the gate on Millers Road, through the fledging garden inhabited by our neighbour, a very fat black cat, to the entrance (note the dutch door fitted with Stephens latches. Just inside is the main exhibit room dominated by busts of Marcus Aurelius Renzetti and Frank Stephens. Please stop at the table, made by Don Stephens, and sign the guest book - a contribution to the donation box, really an old Arden ballot box, is welcome but not required. The exhibits in this room are constantly changing, but some items, like the picture of the "jail house gang" are always there. Move then into the workroom where you will find more exhibits - a bas relief of Patro by Maybelle Brooks over the fireplace, a sculpture by Rick Rothrock. The two large cabinets of photographs are at your disposal, and the file index is handy if you want to research a particular subject. The bookcase contains a fairly complete collection on books about and by Arden authors - Henry George, Upton Sinclair, Harry Kemp, Victor Thaddeus and others. Don't miss the kitchen, in addition to storage space it also contains exhibit items, including the boars head on top of the refrigerator. Finally, please stop in the sunroom, our museum shop. There you can buy Arden postcards and notepaper, maps, posters, videos of The Experimental Village and dolls by Jean Brachman. So come by, visit awhile and tell us about your Arden experiences.

Report accepted.

Audit : no report

Budget Committee: Larry Walker

Budget was presented to Town Assembly and accepted and will now go to Registration Committee to be mailed for the Ballot.
Report Accepted.

Civic Committee: Lou Bean

In the 3 months since our last town meeting the Civic Committee has preoccupied itself with road work. During this period we lost, because of his death, our long-time road inspector Woody Vandever. In spite of being chronically ill, Woody kept doing his job almost to the very end. I personally will miss him and his knowledge of the job. Fortunately for us, Gene Shaw, himself a former Civic Committee chairman, has agreed to take on the job. In addition to finding the road problems this job involves showing to and defining the jobs for bidding contractors and checking on the work of the selected contractors.

Much of Cherry Lane was repaired and resurfaced. The area around the island at Orleans and Miller Roads was surfaced. Most of the Highway including the Buzz Ware Village Center parking lot was resurfaced. We are receiving bids and will shortly award the job of resurfacing Green Lane from Cherry to Walnut Lane. This includes correcting the swale at Walnut Lane which will be made wider and more gradual.

We expect the raising of the curbstones on 185 feet of Orleans Road to begin this week or next. At this same time the catch basin at the head of St. Martins Lane will be repaired.

As part of our preparations for fall and winter we need to clean out our catch basins. At the same time, arrangements will be made for vacuuming leaves from roadsides. This needs to be done after the leaves have fallen but before winter descends.

The pond wall next to the Memorial Garden is being repaired. It appears now that it can be finished before winter.

Report accepted.

Buzz Ware Village Center: Connee McKinney

Our committee report reviews events we have sponsored at the BWVC since the last town meeting, upcoming events, and maintenance projects completed or anticipated.

Starting June 24, ACRA ran five weeks of their Summer Program at the BWVC. The program was very well attended and under the directorship of Rowena Austin and the ACRA Board about 90 children participated. Also 3 special events were held; a bingo lunch on Saturday, July 13th; a Ramsey Clark video on the war with Iraq, presented on August 3 by Michelle Cherrin and the Delaware Committee for Peace in the Middle East; and on Saturday, August 24, Yuri Bocharov, President of Soviet Society of Urbanists spoke on present day challenges for Soviet Cities. We were very pleased that we received positive comments from those who attended. Ruth Bean and Barbara Fenske coordinated these events and a thank you to them for their fine work. Also a request from Ruth Bean, who schedules use of the BWVC, to please call her in advance for regular meetings. If you have your dates lined up now, let her know so that she can assign a room for your committee meeting and we can avoid any problems.

As an outgrowth of the response to the History of Arden series and our building use survey, this fall we are beginning an Arts and Crafts series for teens and adults. Two Calligraphy Workshops will be offered on Saturday, November 16 and 23 at 1-2:30 pm. The fee for both sessions \$8: participants can bring their own supplies or purchase them at the workshop for an additional \$5. We hope the workshops will be helpful to the beginner or to those who would like to review old skills. If you have a particular project in mind we'll try to give you some direction on how to do it. Please call Connee 475-2370, if you would like to sign up or want more information. Also an Origami (paper folding) workshop will be held on Saturday, December 14, at 1-2:30 pm. This workshop presents the basics of origami, including some holiday decorations. The fee for 1 session is \$4 and includes materials and instruction sheets. Please call Cecilia Vore 475-1976 if you would like to sign up. Coming up in January and February, Clay Body Workshop with Alan Burslem and Marbelizing Paper Workshop with Connee McKinney. Please watch the Arden Page for details.

On Friday night, September 27 from 7-9 pm, the Arden Club, ACRA and the BWVC will jointly host a Campfire and Songfest in the Moonlight Theatre; Gild Hall. This event is free and all ages are welcome. Please bring your instrument, your best voice or a blanket to sit on. A special welcome for tellers of spooky tales or Arden Stories.

Our committee tackled two maintenance projects in August. The front door and inside wall was completely replaced. We also had drop ceilings and florescent lighting installed in the front entranceway and hallways. We also completed some electrical projects that were recommended by Cigna, our insurance company - we moved one outlet and closed off another, and also tended to some cluttered housekeeping on the stage and one of the closets. We have also drafted a preliminary maintenance/safety checklist for our committee and WMS to use regularly for inspection of the BWVC.

Our 1992-93 budget includes funds for installing 3 additional emergency lights. We have also included in the budget an additional \$2100 to install a drop ceiling to cover the tiles and piping and to convert room 4 from incadescent lighting to florescent lighting (as the hallway is now).

Although short-term, the Wilmington Montessori Association will benefit from the savings in electricity, our committee feels that long-term that this project will make the building more energy efficient and attractive. Previous committees identified this electrical upgrade as one that we wanted to accomplish before the current contract with WMA ended. We feel that we cannot finish this project with our current income from WMA. Therefore we hope this budget will be approved and we can move ahead.

We thank the Civic Committee for the repaving the asphalt in the parking lot and front walkway of the BWVC. They did a fine job and we appreciate it. Also we hope to have a joint meeting with representative of the Arden Club board, Arhives, Community Planning and BWVC committees on Wednesday, November 6, at 8 pm at the BWVC to talk about future plans and cooperation. Please join us if you would like to add to the discussion.

In addition to the ACRA program, there have been 13 meetings, 3 special events and 2 group events since the June town meeting. Please call Ruth Bean to schedule in advance.

We welcome your comments and concerns and thank you for your continued support.

Report accepted.

Community Planning: Russ McKinney

Committee is working on ordinance # 11 for clarity and will be meeting with other committees November 6. Cy Liberman one of Ardens representatives to CCOBH then gave his report.

Report of Arden's representatives to the Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred: Cy Liberman and Lew Aumack

The Zoning Committee of the Council of Civic Organizations has recently been informed about two projects within a few miles of Arden. One of these is a proposal by the Forward family to build a shopping center on Silverside Road, next to the Silverside Dairy, and adjacent to the old Forwood School, which would be preserved. The project also includes 27 town houses. The shopping center would have 50,000 sq. ft. of floor area. The second project calls for construction of 32 town houses on land on

both sides of the existing town houses called the Hamptons on Marsh Rd. These houses are planned for empty nesters and are to cost about \$170,000 each. The developer, a Mr. Winchester, is of course concerned about the Forwood Development because both projects will have an impact on traffic at the already busy intersection of Marsh and Silverside Rd. The building of the 32 town houses in a project called Talleyrand, has already been approved. The other 12 are in the zoning process. The Council of Civic Organizations has not yet taken a position on the 12-town house project nor on the Forwood project. Your representatives to the council recommend that the town meeting not only oppose the shopping center portion of the Forwood project, but should express opposition to any further commercial development in the Brandywine Hundred unless there is a demonstrated need or some extenuating circumstance. We would like to present a resolution to that effect.

Resolution of the TOWN ASSEMBLY OF ARDEN. September 23, 1991

WHEREAS, Brandywine Hundred already has adequate commercial facilities for the present population and more than enough additional shopping centers have been approved by County Council for the future population for many years ahead:

AND WHEREAS, there is a proposal to build another 50,000 square foot shopping center on Silverside Rd., near Marsh Rd.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden, hereby expresses its opposition to the building of more commercial facilities on Silverside Rd., because such facilities are not needed in the neighborhood and would seriously add to traffic congestion at the busy intersection of Marsh and Silverside Roads:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Assembly urges the government of New Castle County, including the Planning Department, the Planning Board, and County Council, to reject any further commercial development in Brandywine Hundred unless there is a demonstrated need for the facilities or some extenuating circumstance to justify their construction.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COPIES OF this resolution be sent to the Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred, to Councilman Richard Cecil, to the New Castle County Council and to the Planning Department and the Planning Board.

Adopted by the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden, Monday, Sept. 23, 1991

Playground Committee: Pat Jordon

During the past quarter, the required playground equipment inspections were made, and all equipment is in safe condition. The last inspection was made right before the Arden Fair to ensure that all of the equipment was safe before the arrival of all the "fair goers".

Pursuant to motion of the last Town Meeting, the Committee sent out a "Request for Bid" to five companies for the construction of a replacement baseball backstop on the Village Green. No contract has been signed yet, because all of the companies have not yet responded. By October 15, 1991 the Committee intends to authorize a contract to begin the project. The Committee has submitted a budget request for 1992-93 to the Budget Committee. The requested amount was based on a planned major maintenance project of repainting the metl equipment. This is needed preventive maintenance.

Report acceptd.

Legislative Reference Committee: Elizabeth Varley

The Legislative Reference Committee held two meetings (7/28/91) and (9/15/91) since the last town meeting.

Three recommendations were made at these meetings. First, all committee reports should be dated and each page numbered. Second, each page of the town minutes should be dated and numbered. Finally, a set of minutes and committee reports not included in the minutes verbatim should be supplied to the Legislative Reference Committee's chairperson in an 8½ by 11 inch format. These recommendations help organize the inforamtion important for the long term work of the committee.

At our September meeting, we discussed two subjects which arose at the Advisory Committee meeting. The question of what happens when a lack of quorum exists. Three points should be made. First, at any time in the meeting, the presence of a quorum can be called into question by any member of the assembly. This question takes precedence over any other question. This means a vote can even be interrupted for a determination of a quorum. Second, the lack of a quorum means the assembly can either carry on debate or entertain a question for adjournment. No committee reports can be accepted, or any votes taken except to adjourn. Third, once business on a subject has been completed, a lack of a quorum (35) can not change the action. Therefore, a vote is valid as long as no one calls into question the presence of a quorum.

The second subject discussed at the Advisory Committee meeting was the subject of replacements of committee members. While the town assembly has taken action on a number of occasions addressing this issue (1.28.85 1.25.88 and 6.26.89), we feel the section entitled vacancies of "An Act to reincorporate the Village of Arden (Section 10) clearly states the following: In case of vacancy created in any office established under the provision of this Act and the doings of the Town Assembly by reason

of death, resignation, loss of residency in the Village, conviction of a felony or otherwise, the Town Assembly at the earliest meeting, shall elect some suitable person to serve the unexpired term of such office".

Therefore, the vacancy must be filled as a result of an election at a Town Meeting.

Our next meeting will be in early November.

Report accepted.

Registration Committee: Yvonne King

The Committee met September 9, at the BWVC. We discussed the need to be sure who is a voting resident at Town Meeting so that only those votes will be counted when votes are taken from the floor. We will have the list of voters at Town Meeting.

We will be meeting on October to prepare ballots. We will count ballots on November 6, 1991 at 7:00 pm, at the BWVC. We encourage people to be witnesses to this, in fact we will endeavor to guarantee that impartial witnesses are there. There should be at least 2 witnesses, including a Trustee. If any of you are aware of new renters in the community please let us know so the Welcoming Committee (Maryellen Jobson) so that she can arrange for one of the committee to call on them.

We discussed what proportion of an affirmation vote is needed to pass the budget and a simple majority is all that is needed.

On October 28 at 8:00 pm we will have a full explanation of the Hare Proportional Representation voting systems explained by Shaul Gladstone. The number of legal voters is 393.

Report accepted.

Safety Committee Report: Tim Colgan

On September 9th, representatives of the Safety Committee met with Richard Kendall, New Castle County Coordinator of Emergency Planning to discuss emergency preparedness for Arden. The Safety Committee will discuss ways the village can assist emergency personnel in event of a disaster.

Reflective Mailbox Numerals:

We aware that there has been a delay in the project of placing numerals on resident mailboxes. However, the delay has been caused by a savings to the Village ! Pete Renzetti was able to contact a manufacturer directly and, thus saved us \$360. The numbers will arrive within the week and the project will commence at that time.

Ed DiSabitino, our New Castle County Police Community contact, has retired. Our new liaison officer is Joe Blight. Officer Blight is a regular patrol officer but any comments or areas of concern can be directed to him at 571-7953.

Report accepted.

Vote on Ordinance # 12 closing of the woodlands from dusk to dawn:
all in favor, ordinance passed.

New Business:

Ethel Monfort reported that the family of Vera Burke had requested that her ashes be buried in Field Theater. In the past it had been decided to keep the Memorial Garden as the place for ashes.

Motion: That we should rename the "smoking break" to the "meeting break".

Motion was approved.

Good Welfare:

That the Town Secretary send a letter of sympathy to the family of Woodrow Vandever to express sympathy of the Town.

Meeting adjourned 10:30 PM

Respectfully submitted: Irene O'Connor, Town Secretary